

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
meeting of Friday, September 4, 2009
Bangs Community Center, room 101

Attendance: Peggy Roberts, Nonny Burack, Harry Brooks (arrived 5:20), Mary Streeter, Carol Gray (arrived 4:55), Aaron Hayden (departed 5:16), Rob Crowner

1. Peggy calls the meeting to order at 4:40pm.
2. Minutes of previous meetings: Nonny moves, Peggy seconds to accept minutes of 8/13, 8/20, and 8/28 as amended and the committee votes approval 4-0.
3. Budget presentation proposal: Due to some confusion about responsibility, the committee's invitation to the Select Board and Finance Committee has not yet been conveyed. Peggy will send it presently, with the names of all TMCC members included.
Peggy reads the letter she sent to Larry Shaffer and Kate Seaman regarding (a) TMCC's being kept informed of in-house planning meetings for Town Meeting, and (b) TMCC's affixing stickers to TM mailings in order to promote attendance at TMCC events. Aaron cautions the committee not to expect "complete" information about meetings, but the committee assures him that it just wants to have time to plan the bus tour and other events. Peggy has received no response yet, but the committee remains optimistic of cooperation.
4. Scheduling and location of Fall events: Mary reports that the Middle School Auditorium has been reserved for TMCC for the evening of October 14. Nonny will cancel the reservations for rooms in the Bangs Center and keep the one for the Town Room on October 27.
Nonny reports that the Town Room has also been reserved for TMCC for April 13 and April 21, though there is a possibility that the latter might be "bumped" by the Planning Board. Mary notes that the Spring warrant might not be signed on April 5 as currently projected, which in turn might impact planning for the Warrant Review.
5. Forum planning: Mary and Carol relate some of the research they have done on smart growth, suggesting that the forum could be used to educate the public on smart growth principles. However, Peggy states that TMCC is not really positioned to take the lead on something like that; instead, the forum should be related to potential government action. Noting that a replacement for the phased-growth zoning bylaw will likely be presented to Fall Town Meeting, Carol suggests a program consisting of speakers on the history of the phased-growth bylaw and on how smart growth relates to the master plan. Peggy suggests covering (a) phased-growth history, (b) what is being done in Amherst now, and (c) the goals of smart growth, ideally in a New England context.
Carol moves and Harry seconds to create a subcommittee to brainstorm and contact potential speakers on these topics. In discussion, Carol advises that those who might be seen as "lightning rods" by either "side" should probably not be invited to be on a panel even if they are expert in the topic, though Peggy is concerned that obvious political dodges might undermine the credibility of the forum. Various sources of expertise are

suggested, including town officials, master plan committee members, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and others. Mary suggests incorporating a slideshow to illustrate the issues touched on during the program.

When Carol, Harry, and Rob agree to serve on the subcommittee, the motion to form it is approved by a vote of 6-0. After some discussion, the title of the forum is changed to "Phased Growth/Smart Growth".

6. Precinct meetings: Mary reports that meetings for precincts 5 and 6, 7 and 8, and 9 have been scheduled. Meetings for precincts 1, 2, and 3; and 4 and 10 are not quite finalized with regard to locations or hosts. Mary will insert updated information into last year's flyer template.

Nonny has arranged to be notified by Judith Arcamo when the mailing is ready to be stuffed and stickered and will coordinate this activity within TMCC. Mary will update the sticker as soon as possible.

7. Next week's meeting is changed to Friday, September 11 at 4:30pm.

8. The meeting is adjourned at 6:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Crowner

Documents distributed at the meeting:

1. agenda
2. draft minutes of August 13, 2009
3. draft minutes of August 20, 2009
4. draft minutes of August 28, 2009
5. updated TMCC calendar
6. notes on Smart Growth by Mary Streeter